



# CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

February 25, 2021  
Via Electronic Mail

Director  
Office of Child Care  
330 C ST SW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: **CRRSA Spending Plan for California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.**

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how **California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB)** plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

- 1. Direct Services/Subsidies** CRIHB intends to help re-open two Tribal Child Care Centers located in remote areas of the state of California. Both centers closed due to the Tribe being unable to support and fund the center due to COVID. The Tribes are located in such remote areas of California that it is near to impossible for the Tribal parents to find other child care alternatives. Furthermore, parents want to send children to center based child care so that education, socialization and support for parents is available, but based in Tribal traditions and norms. Parents have been calling asking to re-open the centers to offer child care so parents who are essential workers can return to work. The centers will provide spots for Tribal children who are eligible under the CCDF. Center 1 would have approximately 20 children, while Center 2 would have space for up to 40 children. Funds will be used to pay for child care provider salaries at these centers and all applicable costs to run the centers. CRIHB also intends to add more families onto the program who are seeking child care through any available child care in their areas.
- 2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices**
  - CRIHB intends to update their current CCDF policies to address health and safety requirements of child care providers that not only address the current virus, but also other infectious diseases that would impact child care center and child care providers. CRIHB also intends on purchasing PPE supplies for the child care providers, along with paying for specialized health and safety training so that they understand how to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases in their centers or homes.

### **3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers**

- CRIHB does not provide grants or mini-grants for this program.
- CRIHB does, through its grant and in past practices pays for child care spots so that families do not lose their spot at the licensed centers due to mandated center closures, and child absence. This has helped child care provider keep their doors open.

### **4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic**

- CRIHB has been working on recruiting more families and child care providers in the services areas that normally are funded by the State's CCDF program to add Tribal children to their roster to help them become part of our program.
- CRIHB is still applying all eligibility criteria for this purpose, but expediting outreach of the applications.

### **5. Other**

- Under number 1 – reopening centers, CRIHB intends to use funds to hire additional staff to ensure that Teacher Student Ratios are maintained.
- CRIHB will be purchasing disinfecting machines for the licensed child care providers. These machines allow for centers to place all toys, stuffed animals, small equipment to be placed inside for deep industrial disinfection. It also helps cut down time on teacher clean up at the end of the day.
- CRIHB will be purchasing PPE equipment on a consistent basis for child care providers to ensure that they are protected. The purchase of child PPE items will also take place. Plexi-glass dividers will be purchased for children's desks.
- CRIHB will be purchasing outdoor classroom equipment, so child care providers can have classes outside to minimize the spread of this and other diseases.
- CRIHB will be purchasing sanitation stations to help the centers minimize COVID spread.
- CRIHB will also purchase emergency preparedness backpacks for a family of 4 to survive in cases of closures again.
- CRIHB is also expanding the number of hours that child care providers will be reimbursed for, especially for parents who are essential workers that need more than 8 hours a day. Possibly increasing the hours to 10 or 12 hours a day per child.
- CRIHB will also increase the hourly reimbursement rate to expand parents' equal access to different child care settings.
- CRIHB will also provide PPE supplies to families to help minimize the spread of the virus.
- CRIHB to help child providers purchase or fix washing machines and dryers to help them clean blankets, and smocks to minimize the spread of the virus.
- Purchase of additional laptops for distance learning.
- Purchase Tribal Software that will help the program improve tracking of payments, eligibility to help with the 700 and 696T reports.
- Family engagement projects – to help parents get Parenting Classes.

- Purchase classroom supplies for child care centers and for family based providers.
- Purchase first aid kits for all child care providers and families.
- Purchase CPR/First Aid courses for all child care providers and parents
- Help to pay for child care providers' state license renewals.
- Pay for a consultant to develop professional training on: Childhood Trauma Informed Care; Cultural Appropriateness; Working with Dual Language Learnings.
- Purchase for child care providers – professional development trainings.
- Hire a consultant to develop video content for professional development of child care providers, along with developing videos for parents on what child care is and what to look for in child care settings.
- Hire a Health and Safety Monitor for the program that will work with child care providers to ensure that minimum measures are implemented to keep children safe.
- Purchase the Tribal Nations Health and Safety
- Develop campaign posters to promote Safe Sleep, Hand Washing, Dental Health, Mental Health, etc. that is based on Tribal cultural perspective.

Please note, that we may expand this list after we perform a secondary community assessment to determine what other needs child care providers and families have due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. We will ensure that any new additions are sent forward to all the applicable personnel at ACF Region IX Offices. The California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

AnnLouise Bonnitto, JD

Tribal Child Development Department Director (CCDF Director)

California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (15 Tribe CCDF Consortium)

cc: Paul Noski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region IX  
Kurt Gee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region IX  
Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region X